

From: Nicholas Del Medico
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 10:43am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on the Microsoft settlement. I am extremely bothered by the actions the U.S. Government and, specifically, the Department of Justice prioritizes. Protection of U.S. citizens seems to fall very low on that list. I myself am a software developer. There have also been many occasions when I was disappointed or unhappy with Microsoft's products. Do you know what I did? I used one of their competitors products. A right every citizen in this country has and may exercise at any moment. Most consumers decide not to for many reasons. Microsoft products tend to be easier to use, easier to setup and less expensive. Consumers are not buying Microsoft products because they are forced to. They are buying Microsoft for a variety of reasons specific to each individual consumer. Reasons that are so varying that no matter how much central planning a government does, it could never match the success of a COMPLETELY free market. In a completely free market, only good monopolies exist. A monopoly that provides an inferior service and charges customers more than the service is worth can only exist with government protections (ie; the US Post Office). Since a consumer won't voluntarily pay more than they feel a good or service is worth, a free market automatically destroys "bad" monopolies. On the other hand, when businesses that constantly improve their goods and services while at the same time lowering their prices (ie; Microsoft) "corner the market", it shows that the company must be suiting the needs of its customers. The Sherman Act is anti-american as is anyone that supports it. I urge you to stop wasting our money. Not only on prosecuting consumer friendly businesses but on every victimless crime the DOJ feels takes priority over the protection of US citizens lives. After all, your reasoning for wasting OUR money is, supposedly, for OUR best interests.

Thank You,
Nick DelMedico

CC: Nicholas Del Medico